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Hopedale, Ill., June 27th, 1924

TO OUR FRIENDS WHO LOVE WILD FLOWERS:-

The seasons for collecting Wild Plants has begun. Already we have stored Mertensia, Dicentras, Erythroniums, Claytonias, "Harbengers of Spring" and other early ripening bulbs. Trilliums are also being collected and stored, or sent out to fill early orders. Sanguinaria and others will be ready to collect next month. These are bulbs that may be collected when ripe, and stored till the fall growth starts. There are others that are now entering their summer rest, preparatory to the fall growth. Of course these are not dug now, only to be shipped and planted immediately, since they would not store thru fall months. They want to get ready for next spring's blooming. Under this head are the Aquilegias, most Irises, several of the Violets, Etc. Of course these will enter into a complete dormancy this fall for the winter, when they will again plant well.

There is an advantage of planting these items now, or at least before the fall growth of roots starts. Take Mertensias, for example:- They are in complete rest from about June 15th to 20th on to late July. Then, even well stored bulbs, begin to put out new white rootlets to store food, make buds, Etc. for their spring's blooming. Planted before this time, they are thereby established the first year and their blooming is immense! They may be planted at any time so long as the ground is open enough to do it, or even thru open seasons in winter, but they do not bloom quite so profusely, as when planted before the new growth or rootlets starts. Even in early spring planting they produce a wealth of bloom, but it is necessary to get them out at the earliest moment and that often, on account of weather conditions, is impossible to do. At best, the blooming is much less than if planted now. This is the case to a greater or lesser degree of Trilliums, Dicentras, Claytonias, Erythroniums, and even Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon media*), Aquilegia, Etc.

Ferns may be handled at any time thruout the year, but move best in fall, after dormant, and in early spring. Summer planting means work, and knowledge to pull them thru well, especially if planting is followed by hot, or dry weather, or worse, if by both. Tops must be crated now to get them thru in good order, adding to their cost.

The native Phloxes may be planted at any time now, if your conditions permit. What was said about Ferns, Aquilegias and Violets being planted at this season applies to these in a less degree. Most of them are planted in late fall, or early spring.

From above it may be seen that plants that become thereby dormant thru summer are best planted soon after their entering into the dormant state. Many others taking their summer rest now, can be planted well at this time. Others like Blood Root, in July, and so on thruout the season.

Our idea in writing this message to you is to show you that it is to our mutual advantage to have your orders early. You are much surer of getting your order filled in full, and getting stock when it is of the greatest value to you; we have the advantage of turning out labor into money, serving you more fully, getting the space where we store them for other later ripening sorts and of getting enough plants to fill your orders. It must be borne in mind that many, very many of the earlier ripening sorts have now entirely disappeared. If securable at all, beyond the stored stock, they would be expensive. Heavy rains already have made collecting Mertensia difficult, and it is possible that we will have to advance the price on them before the season closes. ORDER EARLY--to our mutual advantage.

Always at your service,

Hopedale Nurseries, J.W. Griesener, Prop.

